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Letter to Charles Grey on his
Parliamentary Conduct
respecting his Royal Highness,
the Prince of Wales



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A
LETTER
TO
CHARLES GREY, ESQ.
ON HIS
PARLIAMENTARY CONDUCT,
RESPECTING
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
THE
PRINCE OF WALES.

IN WHICH ARE SOME REMARKS ON

“ A LETTER TO THE PRINCE OF WALES, ON A
SECOND APPLICATION TO PARLIAMENT.”

AND LIKEWISE ON THE
“ OBSERVATIONS.”

“ May the Marriage of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales,
“ afford the Comfort of seeing the Royal Family numerous, as,
“ I thank God, it is, still rising up in a third [and now we
“ hope in a fifth] Generation! A Family which I most sin-
“ cerely wish may be as immortal as those Liberties and that
“ Constitution which it came to maintain!”

Mr. Pitt's [the late Earl of Chatham's] Maiden Speech, April, 1736.

LONDON:

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LUDGATE STREET, NEAR STATIONER'S HALL.

1745

LETTER

TO

CHARLES GREVILLE, ESQ.

OF THE

PARLIAMENTARY CONDUCT

OF THE

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

THE

PRINCE OF WALES.

IN WHICH ARE CONTAINED

THE PRINCIPAL FACTS OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS'S

LETTER TO THE PRINCE OF WALES, ON

SECOND APPLICATION TO PARLIAMENT.

AND A DISCUSSION ON THE

CONSTITUTION.

THE PRINCE OF WALES, who is the only son of the late King George IV. and the late Queen Caroline, was born on the 26th of January 1792. He was educated at the University of Cambridge, and was created Duke of Cambridge in 1817. He was married to the Princess of Wales in 1818, and they have three children, the Prince of Wales, the Princess of Wales, and the Princess of Wales.

LONDON:

Printed by J. JOHNSON, in Pall-mall.

DA

507

1795

LETTER, &c.

SIR,

TO a reforming disposition, there cannot be a greater luxury of infernal gratification, than attacking, in parliament, any one of the Royal Family. Every wound thus given to monarchy, may, perhaps, contribute more to the cause of reform, if artfully exposed, than a score of insurrections, or the distribution of fifty thousand Jacobin pamphlets among the lower orders throughout the three kingdoms.

All the numerous counter-balancing virtues of the character so slandered, serve for nothing in the scale, when his amiable foibles, only, are to be magnified and distorted; in order to excite invenomed animadversion, and tinge his reputation with an illiberal obloquy, originating, solely, in the most vindictive, and the most factious motives.

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As some look at the sun's eclipse through the medium of smoked glass, so do the reformers view, with a jaundiced eye, the juvenile specks that dim, for a moment, the lustre of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. In the midst of this malignant and designing group, we descry you, Sir, as one of the unmanly chiefs; and the hollow sympathy which you lately and are still displaying in parliament, for the embarrassments of an amiable and generous Prince, will not soon be forgotten.

Had you been a staunch and inflexible patriot, advanced in years, in whom all the passions, but those of an over-rigorous avarice for the public welfare had subsided: had you been what is stiled a country gentleman; that is, a conscientious member of parliament, whose chief business, independent of all party, is, he conceives, to guard the public purse from plunder, and the constitution of Great Britain from innovation:

Had you been a steady supporter of the indispensable prerogatives of the crown, and of the people's real and most beneficial privileges:— Had you been the avowed enemy of all that intriguing phalanx of disappointed and artful men, falsely self-named *Friends of the People*:— Had you been the determined foe of *Gallic Reform*, and of all its profligate and low imitators in this country:— Had you been only one of the members for Northumberland, in-
stead

stead of one of those at Brookes's, and the Crown and Anchor, for certain purposes:

Had you never known what it was to be a husband, or what it was to commit a venial error: Had you never tasted the luscious sweets of plenty, and enjoyed the station of rank and splendour: in any of those cases, Sir, your petulant and unbecoming speeches against his Royal Highness might have been somewhat palliated by good intention; because springing from strong constitutional motives, although they would be found both illiberal and impolitic.

But who are you, Sir, that could not help feeling the most unpleasant sensations at his Royal Highness's dilemma; yet would not, because the task was disagreeable, shrink from doing your duty? Are you not a young man, taken some years ago into the bankrupt firm of opposition for your tiny loquacity, and your pert presumption? Are you not a stripling, that, from your family connections and your own voluble effrontery, were appointed to stand behind the opposition counter in the Commons, and sell off their rotten wares, with less suspicion than any of the old partners, whose tricks had been so often detected, that the public could place no confidence in their assertions?

Yet with no other talent than plodding; with no other genius than a prompt and overbearing loquacity; and from whose sapient tongue, neither bril-

liancy of thought, nor novelty of argument ever yet condescended to emanate; still, with only these shallow requisites, spurred on by the adulation of faction, do you, Sir, contrive to make a flippant noise in the grand senate of the nation!

With nothing of the all-powerful Pitt's resistless stream of eloquence, which, like the Mississippi, bears down, with increasing force, every thing that would oppose its overpowering rapidity! With nothing of Dundas's equal tide of eloquence, which, like the most loved of all the ocean's sons, that flows by St. Stephen's walls, is,

“ Though deep, yet clear, though gentle, yet not dull;

“ Strong, without rage, without o'erflowing, full!”

With not one drop of the declamatory torrent of Fox, that, like the deep and rapid falls of Niagara, overwhelms every unsuspecting bark that is drawn too near its vortex! With not one spark of the eloquent dramatized intemperance of Sheridan, that, like the classic cascade of Tivoli, fascinates all beholders with its sublime bursts, and its beautiful meanders; leading us into the most romantic labyrinth!

You, Sir, have nothing of the foam of their eloquence to boast, but only some of the little gurgling noise that is made in their eddy. But should some of your friends flatter you, that yours resembles a cascade, it can only be like the artificial one at Vauxhall,

hall, formed of Cornish ore; that certainly makes a very great noise, and a very strong impression on many of the learned spectators, who view it with the eye of admiration and rapture.

Indeed you have very few, if any, of the essentials that compose a good orator, or a shrewd statesman. You have all Lord Lauderdale's bustle, and all his pertness, without being equally skilled in his most amazing knowledge of the pens and ink of office, and the topography of French territory. In some points, however, you are equal; in a true knowledge of the French mind, and of the real interests of the British empire.

And, Sir, however you may flatter yourself that you can bias the public, as the young partner in the old firm, that was formerly the trencher friends, and now the ungrateful opponents, nay persecutors, of the *Royal Timon*; there is both loyalty and good-sense in the generous mind of the people at large, to spurn the insidious schemes of certain reformers, that would make his philanthropic embarrassments a factious vehicle for royal defamation.

Instead of meanly and cruelly endeavouring to render his Royal Highness unpopular, when the torch of Hymen had scarce lighted him to the altar; what, Sir, ought to have been your conduct, as a youth lately married yourself, on this solemn occasion? No difference of sentiment on political topics ought to have

have drawn you into such an indecorous step, as, first to join the general voice of approbation at the royal marriage, and not at the same time have enabled his Royal Highness, by administering a sweet oblivious antidote, to wipe off all incumbrance, and all retrospect; that he might enjoy all the felicity of his new state, pure and unalloyed by the rancour of hollow friendship and commiserating malignity!

Had his Royal Highness patronized your wretched Reform plan! Had he, by that means, convulsed the public mind! Had he made the crown sit uneasy on his father's brow! Had he deprived the friends of the constitution of every hope, and himself of every future prospect, to sway the sceptre of his ancestors, in the course of nature, with the same salutary prerogatives as they possessed, for the general welfare! Had he done all this, his Royal Highness, perhaps, would have met with no opposition, in the payment of his debts, from your side of the House; but, on the contrary, eulogiums would have been poured forth on the laudable foibles of his generous nature, and his innate goodness of heart! He, who could neither view distress without sympathy, nor permit the ingenious artist to go unencouraged and unrewarded!

How would you have then declaimed, Sir, about the policy and the absolute necessity of liquidating every

every demand that had occurred before his nuptials; and have appealed to the feelings of all, whether, when a youth that had been indiscreet, from the overflowings of a feeling heart, on his entering into a state of wedlock with an object that all approved, should not have every impediment to his conjugal happiness removed, and every former disagreeable idea erased from his memory, on such a joyful event! An event that, on the salutary conduct of Parliament, now depend, perhaps, not only the coming felicity of the Prince, but the safety and the credit of the monarchy itself, in a future reign.

But because his Royal Highness, like the Duke of Portland, and other real patriots, detached himself from your party, when it became a reforming faction; the British Timon, with the best of hearts, is to be goaded by every reformer within and without the doors of Parliament, as if he had committed one of the most enormous actions against the liberties of his country! He is to be hunted down in every Jacobin print, and by every reforming projector that can write or speak; for no other reason, whatever may be the pretext, than that he refused to league with a band of men, who wish to get into power, like Orleans, Fayette, and Mirabeau, by convulsing the constitution of their country!

Oh,

Oh, ye who sincerely love the monarchy of Britain, watch with a most jealous eye the designs of those who are now tearing, by piece meal the character of your future Sovereign! A Prince, whose only foible has been the generous disposition of his nature! A Prince, Sir, of whom many of your friends used to exclaim, at the doors of Carlton House:

“ Come, shall we in, and taste Lord Timon’s bounty ?

“ He, sure, outgoes the very heart of kindness:

“ He pours it out. Plutus, the god of gold,

“ Is but his steward. No meed but he repays

“ Seven-fold above itself. No gift to him

“ But breeds the giver a return exceeding

“ All use of quittance. *The noblest mind he carries*

“ *That ever govern’d man!*”

It is impossible, indeed, to view your conduct, and that of several of your confederates, in regard to his Royal Highness’s incumbrances, without feeling the utmost indignation. Because he will not come into your political wake, you would wish to drift him upon the bleak shores of Cornwall or Wales, in an ignoble exile! You would wish to drive him, and his royal consort, from the capital, for several years, to liquidate certain demands, which the majority of the creditors, I can venture to affirm, would not wish to be liquidated by any such harsh or rigorous steps, as to see his Royal Highness

Highness, shorn of his beams, a recluse in any of the distant counties; for how could he retain his splendour upon 60,000 l. per annum in the vicinity of the metropolis?

It was well remarked by Mr. Fox, that the duty of Parliament to the Prince of Wales, and to the Public, was the same; for, in consulting his dignity, they consulted the public interest. Pity it is, however, that he did not at the same time really consult the dignity of his Royal Highness, when he recommended that he should, with his lovely bride, retire upon 60,000 l. per annum for several years! How can Mr. Fox, who owned that it was necessary to support the splendour of royalty, as an essential part of the constitution, reconcile the curtailment of more than half of his Royal Highness's income, as contributing to the maintenance of that necessary splendour?

We are yet to learn, Sir, if ever Mr. Fox regularly devoted any part of his own income to the strict and rapid liquidation of his debts; much less the greatest portion of it. And therefore the story of the frail lady, which he told, that hoped to atone for her own faults, by her marked disapprobation of them in others, and which he applied to his Royal Highness, can never be admired, when coming from his lips, either for its candour or liberal aptitude.

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All that speech of Mr. Fox, indeed, was more like the trimming orations of Lord Lansdowne, teeming so much with the inconsistency of affirmation and negation, than the clear and manly sentiments of one who was truly grateful, as he said, for the personal notice and kindness with which his Royal Highness had sometimes honoured him. How he, who was never very urgent about paying any debt, could have the front to affirm, that the people would see no atonement for past imprudence in his Royal Highness's paying 25,000 l. per annum towards the reduction of his debts, is really past all the comprehension of every plain-thinking man!

Can this be believed from the mouth of Mr. Fox? He, who for many, many years was reported to pay no creditors at all, although often wallowing in the spoils of Newmarket and Brookes's! And yet he, of all men living, will not allow, that nearly one-fifth of the Prince's income being regularly appropriated to his creditors, that the public could see no atonement for past imprudence, by such a sacrifice! The insinuation was as unjust as it was splenetic, illiberal, and ungenerous.

I have no doubt, Sir, but the creditors of the opposition at large would deem themselves very happy, were they to receive all their demands, by a gradual discharge, from one-fifth of all their incomes being strictly and constantly appropriated to that purpose,

purpose. And the public, as well as their creditors, would, in that case, confess that they had made every honourable atonement for any past imprudencies of which they had been guilty.

But is it not somewhat astonishing, Sir, that most of you gentlemen of the opposition feel more for the creditors of the Heir Apparent, than either they do themselves, or than your party do for their own creditors! I am confident, that if your friends shewed but half that sollicitude for the quick discharge of their own debts, which they have lately shewn for those of his Royal Highness, they would make a very numerous, and a very patient body of men, very happy indeed!

But there was a time, Sir, when your friends, like Timon's trencher-friends, were not by any means so anxious:

“ Then they would *smile*, and *sawn* upon *his* DEBTS,

“ And take down *th'* *interest* in their *glutt'nous* MAWS!”

Mr. Fox admitted, that the splendour of royalty was not only necessary to monarchy, but to all states, even to a republic; and that it should extend beyond the monarch to those around him, and brighten the circle within which he stood. Such being granted, he endeavours however to do this axiom away, in the pure stile of Lord Lansdowne, by admitting it only as a general proposition, subject to all the modifica-

tions, or reforms, of times and circumstances. And of such modifications, owing to certain politic, and not public, reasons, he and his friends, Sir, arrogate to themselves the fitness, both as to the period, as well as to the occasion!

Were the revenue of the Heir Apparent not founded upon precedent, nor the necessity of the splendour of royalty admitted:—Had the settlement of 113,000*l.* per annum, which his royal grandfather enjoyed fifty years ago, been ever objected to as too large: Did the annual revenue of his Royal Highness rise or fall with times and circumstances, like lands or stocks:—Then, indeed, Mr. Fox might have talked of modifications; and you, Sir, speak as you did, of reducing the Prince's splendour to a scale with the general means.

But as this is not the case, your comparison of him to a person in private life, curtailing his expences to his means, is no ways applicable to his Royal Highness; who, however flourishing the country, obtains not a guinea more than his settled revenue; whereas, a private gentleman, if his estate increase in value, enjoys every shilling of the additional income.

Now most of the estates in Britain have increased their rent-roll to treble, or at least double to what they were half a century ago, when Frederick Prince of Wales enjoyed 113,000*l.* per annum by universal consent;

consent; while you would attempt to fix the indispensable splendour of the Heir Apparent to that former pittance, without any increase whatever!

Is this fair? Is this loyal? Is this either honourable or just? It can only be solved, however, by what you said in another part of your speech, Sir, that "you wished to reduce those trappings of state," the splendour of royalty. As this is, certainly, therefore, a branch of your plan of reform, every one can perceive whether you are any thing more than the mouth advocate of monarchy, and whether or not democracy is not somewhat rooted in your breast.

Surely, if the dignity and splendour of the station of the Heir Apparent is to be kept up in a similar stile to what it was fifty years since, which all but two or three reformers in parliament agree to, his income ought to be at least doubled, if we are to judge by the comparative value of money, or even by that staple which regulates every other article of life, the price of wheat, in the two different æras.

Fifty years ago, Sir, the best wheats were from 28s. to 29s.—now they are from 68s. to 70s. This is more than double. Another article of life, coals, was then from 24s. to 26s. per chaldron—now they are, on the yearly average, double. Butcher's meat was then from 2 d. to 3 d. per lb.—now it is from

from 6d. to 9d. Thus the three great essentials of coals, wheat, and butcher's meat, are raised in fifty years to double the price. And all liquors, whether manufactured by fermentation or distillation, whether home or foreign made, bear fully as great a proportion of increase. Besides all this, workmen and servants' wages too, and many sorts of apparel, furniture, and conveniencies of life, have had at least a similar rise; while you, Sir, in the wonderful ebullition of your reforming loyalty, would tie his Royal Highness down to the old annual sum of 100,000*l.* which could, by no means, go a greater length in 1795, than 40,000*l.* did in 1745!

After having proved, Sir, that all the articles of life are at least doubled during the two different periods; the next thing to be considered is, the ability of the people to pay a much greater sum now, to maintain the splendour of royalty, than they were enabled to do half a century ago. If the national debt be increased to quintuple its former amount, the means are not only likewise increased in a much greater proportion, to pay the interest, but to defray the vast additional expence of Government: While the great body of the people, at the same time, are much better cloathed, much better fed, much better lodged, and can afford to indulge themselves in much greater luxuries of every kind than their ancestors could in those days; when they, not only without
murmur,

murmur, but with all the liberality that belonged to the old English loyal character, allowed his Royal Highness's grandfather 100,000l. per annum, besides the revenues arising from the duchy of Cornwall.

The people, Sir, are now much better able, even in the midst of an expensive, but indispensable war, to contribute 200,000l. per annum to the support of their Royal Highnesses, than they were fifty years ago to pay one-third of the sum to a similar purpose.

As every candid person, upon the least reflection, must admit this to be true, what can we think of your paltry extension of generosity, when you said, that it was first your intention to have proposed, that the whole of the Prince's income should amount only to 100,000l. but as his grandfather had been stated to have enjoyed that sum, in addition to the revenue of the duchy of Cornwall, *you were willing*, in the present instance, to go all the length of the liberality of former times. You, Sir, were willing! Willing to do what? To grant 13,000l. per annum more! Oh, what a stretch of liberality for a narrow mind, and a cold heart! Oh, what a triumph for a vindictive spirit, in condescending to allow such a princely addition! Oh, what an exultation for a reformer, to get thus the future Sovereign of Great Britain so far within his fangs, as to afford the utmost gratification to every republican within the
three

three kingdoms; foiling his reputation, and wounding our future hopes, in colouring a noble foible as a gross crime!

In staining the foible of too great a liberality, with all the odium that can be attached to guilt; and so blinding the public eye from viewing the fair state of the question with impartiality, by raising the hue and cry of Jacobin papers, Jacobin pamphlets, and Jacobin tongues, against these juvenile profusions of an excellent Prince, whose only error, if any other than an amiable venial error it can be called, has been, in not living, during the hey-day of the blood, strictly within the too narrow income hitherto allowed him by Parliament, for maintaining the necessary splendour, as Mr. Fox said, in which all delight!

How different was the conduct of his Royal Highness to many of your political friends! Has he not, when they have been oppressed, and their name flurried by inability to keep their credits, said of several of them, in the utmost perplexity of their embarrassments, as Timon did?

" I am not of that feather to shake off

" My friend, when he most needs me! I do know him

" A gentleman that well deserves a help,

" Which he shall have. I'll pay the debt, and free him!

" Being then enfranchis'd, bid him come to me,

" 'Tis not enough to help the feeble up,

" But to support him after!"

Yet,

Yet, Sir, how is his Royal Highness now requited? By almost every one of you advising in Parliament, that it should be recommended to him to retire from that splendour, which Mr. Fox acknowledged was so necessary to monarchy and the national dignity; and seclude himself from elegant society, in some remote province, where he might exist in rustic comfort, if he could not live in that princely grandeur, in which all delight, and which is so essential to the true dignity of the empire. Yet, Sir, you would all now drive him, like Timon, beyond the walls of Athens; to make him, who was born to govern millions, a royal misanthrope! You would force him, to exclaim of you and others, with Timon:

“ ————— Who dares, who dares,
 “ In purity of manhood, stand upright,
 “ And say this man’s a flatterer? If one be
 “ So are they all. For each degree of fortune
 “ Is smooth’d by that below. All is oblique;
 “ There’s nothing level in our cursed natures
 “ But direct villany. Then be abhorr’d
 “ All feasts, societies, and throngs of men!”

It is very impolitic, and even dangerous to monarchy in future, thus to endeavour to convert the milk of human kindness into the bitter gall of disgust! To wound the feelings of a generous Prince, so far as to impel him to sequester himself from the elegant haunts of man, for actions that displayed

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only

only the extremes of a most beneficent heart ! To blight all the excellent, but, perhaps, over-luxuriant blossom of his nature, when the philanthropic fruit was just beginning to set ! If there be one error that is more excusable, in a youthful Prince, than any other, Sir, it is a munificent profusion. The heart that expanded to relieve the wants of the circles that hovered around Carleton House, will never be contracted in promoting the ease and affluence of a great people, whenever that moment arrives, in the due course of time, in which he is called upon to assume the imperial sceptre.

Every unprejudiced man of sense acknowledges, that there is not a more accomplished gentleman than his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales ; whether we consider the talents, the virtues, or the graces, that he possesses. Your political friends have formerly given such ample testimonies to these truths, that it would be needless here to recapitulate what is so generally known, from their own numerous reports. Although some of them, indeed, seem now like the painter that daubed a beautiful picture, by stealth, when out of employ ; in order that he might be sent for by the owner, to clean that which he himself had so recently bespattered and disfigured.

As too great a liberality, therefore, has been his only foible, Sir, or rather too expensive an ornament for even his Royal Highness any longer to wear,
without

without some slight alteration ; you should not, even in the irascible eagerness of placing your ladder of reform against his bosom, attempt to shake every jewel from his person ; and endeavour to persuade him, and the country, that paste will be as valuable, and as becoming for him to wear, as those brilliants in which, as Mr. Fox says, all delight, and which used to adorn every former Prince of Wales with so radiant and attractive a lustre.

Although, Sir, you might, perhaps, in your reforming mood, give the preference to Dovey's artificial diamonds for the crown ornaments, in place of those ancient real brilliants in which almost all others delight ; And though you and some of your friends may unfortunately mislead the public mind for a moment, as to his Royal Highness's venial irregularities ; I can venture to affirm, that every human being, of common sense, and of a liberal mind, who has either past the hey-day of the blood, or is nearly approaching to it, for I do not mean to appeal to those partial and interested judges that are now within its vortex—however I might single you out, Sir, as an astonishing exception—Any one, and almost every one of these will overlook the foible ; and some will even admire it, as the harbinger of every excellent principle that royalty can possess, when the fermentation of the passions has subsided ;

and the heart becomes rarified and exalted by the generous ebullition.

How then must every loyal and penetrating mind spurn at the base attempts of some, through the rancour of design, and others through the false policy of national prudence, that would recommend, perhaps, a twelve years exile from the capital to the royal pair ; and the annihilation of that splendour, which is so essentially necessary to monarchy, and in which all people so much delight !

Those men would treat the Heir Apparent as is done the royal successor in Turkey, and other places, by confining him until a demise. They would exile him from all those elegant circles of life with which he ought to hold a constant communication ; instead of him and his royal consort becoming the glass of fashion, the patrons of the arts, and the encouragers of manufactures !

Were the Prince of Wales even a Duke of Bedford, he might exist in a garret, like Andrew Marvell ; or live in all the penury of old Elwes, if he pleased, without any attendants. Were he not of the blood-royal, no household establishment, upon any scale, would be absolutely and indispensably necessary. But the royal revenue is given him for the purposes of national splendour ; as he is that august personage who is supposed to keep up the honours and hospitality of the land. Besides this, another reason

son that he is allowed more than any other branches of the royal family, excepting his august sovereign, is, that as he is the nearest allied in birth, so he ought to be the nearest in splendour to the monarch whom he is to succeed; that, by thus being habituated to princely magnificence, the regal splendour might not, all at once, burst upon his understanding; and so far dazzle him, when he came to the crown, as to make him forget, for a moment, the exalted rank of his new situation. This the dignity as well as policy of the country requires; and the splendour of the country will support that dignity. But if he is to be shorn of his beams by the reformers and dissenters in parliament, who say to him, as Goneril and Regan did to Lear, about the number of his attendants;

“ What need you five and twenty, ten, or five !

“ ————— Nay, what needs one ? ”

All the true friends of the constitution, as well as his Royal Highness, may exclaim with Lear;

“ Oh, reason not the need ! our basest beggars

“ Are in the poorest things superfluous :

“ Allow not nature more than nature needs,

“ Man’s life is cheap as beasts ! ”

If once this doctrine is inculcated among the million, that the royal family ought to be diminished
in

in its splendour, and live like private gentlemen; you, aristocratic democrats, Sir, are not aware of the ruin you might ultimately bring upon your own heads. The mass will reason, in that case, thus:—That if their superiors admit that the royal family should live like common gentlemen, they see no reason why they should not live like common gentlemen themselves; and, consequently, all ranks would become equally miserable, famished, and enslaved as they are now in France!

“ _____ take but degree away,

“ And hark, what discord follows!”

It is not more unwise, therefore, than unjust, Sir, in you, as well as it is insulting, to say, that after his income, and almost all his splendour was given up, that there would still be a sufficient provision for the ease and comfort of *two persons* in retirement, who had other resources, to which they might look, than rank and revenue! If, Sir, in such a retirement, he could qualify himself by reflection, for the duties of his future station, as you had the effrontery to assert, it would, probably, be by making him a misanthrope, at the ingratitude, illiberality, and callousness of man! And, whenever he came to the throne from such an exile, he must be more than man, indeed, if all his milk of human kindness, were not curdled by his indignant gall.

gall. No, Sir, he must not lose his magnificence for a moment, unless we would wish to hazard the security of the crown in a future reign, and even degrade it now. For should the splendour of his Royal Highness be eclipsed, the radiance of majesty will perhaps be, in part, obscured; as each, in their due orbit, reflects a lustre on the other.

That such a man as Mr. Curwen, Sir, should talk of the prince "*retiring to regain* public confidence," which he has never lost, but among the reformers, and by their arts, does not surprize me. For this Carlisle representative discoursed about cheap governments like cheap clothes, when he alledged that monarchy was not the cheapest government. It is true that he did not feel himself disposed to compare ours with the Rag Fair government of France; but he triumphantly extolled the Monmouth-street government of America; (almost all the laws and constitutions of which, however, were given her by Great Britain,) as cheaper by far than ours. I thought that the fatal and dear-bought experience of France had, by this time, sickened every man of common sense, from running after cheap governments. And when America branches out into various states like Europe, which sooner or later she will undoubtedly do: or when we see her cheap government,
even

even twenty years after Washington's death, then we may somewhat judge of it, but not till then.— But of all the cheap, strong, durable, easy, and becoming constitutional habits that ever was fashioned to fit mankind, and shield his person from every tempest of adversity and oppression; there has been none ever yet shaped, like the admirable one of Great Britain; however much, Sir, you, Mr. Curwen, and others would wish to shorten its waist, and lengthen its pockets; to cabbage all that which you had cut out, as comfortable remnants for your own wear.

I am not astonished, therefore, that such as Mr. Curwen, and you, are eager for the princely fun of royalty to set for a few years. But that Mr. Fox should recommend such a severe and impolitic mode, as if he had ever retired himself, although he had often the opportunity to do it with much greater propriety, is what hurts me much, as his sympathy is stifled by his policy.

Allowing that he had talked, as he said, of the prince as an abstract and hypothetical person for notices, and kindnesses personally bestowed; this was a strange way of repaying personal kindness, however, by insinuating abstract calumny! It was not unlike Timon's ingrate, Lucullus, who, when his munificent patron was embarrassed, remarked;

“ Alas,

“ Alas, a good lord! a noble gentleman ’tis, if he would not
 “ keep so good a house. Many a time and often I have dined with
 “ him, and told him on’t; and come again to supper to him, on
 “ purpose to have him spend less, and yet he would embrace no
 “ counsel, take no warning by my coming! *Every man has his*
 “ *fault, and honesty is his.*”

Mr. Fox most absurdly advanced, that his Royal Highness would be degraded, by paying only 25,000*l.* towards the liquidation of his debts! Is this degrading? To secure the payment of the whole sum, under the faith of an Act of Parliament, and to appropriate nearly one-fifth of his income to their gradual liquidation? By thus discharging the debts, yet still retaining four-fifths of his splendour, in which all delight, not only for the benefit of trade, but the honour of the Royal Family, and the dignity of a great and flourishing empire! Yet this, Sir, in Mr. Fox’s idea, is degrading? I suppose you would both be happy at seeing him living only upon the revenues of his Cornish estate, because he does not approve, perhaps, of your plan of reform. There may lie the rub.

But were you suffered to begin your demi-Gallic plan, Sir, with the Prince of Wales; perhaps you not aware, that in reforming the palace, some of the low reformers might think that the Mansion-house was too large; St. Paul’s too high; Guild-hall, and the Bank, useless; the Courts of justice
 E detestible;

detestible ; the Parish Churches, eye-fores to the new morality ; and Wharfs, Ware-houses, and Counting-houses, entirely useless !

While this opinion was gaining a rapid footing in the metropolis, every city, town, borough, and village in the kingdom, would follow the laudable example ; and crown the whole work, by a general division of property, and a consequent reduction of the expenditure of all men of rank ; among which you, Sir, would not be spared, because you began with reforming Royalty, by a base diminution of His Royal Highness's income.

But as this will not probably happen, so long as the country at large enjoy their present liberty and property, under the gentle dominion of the illustrious House of Brunswick ; how must you have blushed, Sir, at the liberal conduct and pointed retorts of your friend Mr. Lambton, in allusion to your wish for his Royal Highness condescending to gratify your levelling pride, by exiling himself from the metropolis.

That gentleman behaved loyal, generous, spirited, and proper. He said, like a man, that he was not so weak, when a great occasion called on him, as to shrink at breaking through the enchantment of party and connection ; and therefore he would own, that Mr. Pitt's proposition met his ideas, as fully adequate to the dignity and character

character of the Prince, and the interests of the people. While, at the same time, he remarked, Sir, that, to keep up your consistency, you should have followed up your motion, by proposing to *exile his Royal Highness from his palace, at once, and divest him of every dignity!*

You, and your friends have on all occasions, this sessions, lugged in the words, *starving poor*, by head and shoulders, and croaked about their wants, without making, however, any one motion in parliament for their relief, or doing any one generous act of publicity towards alleviating their distresses! And, as to your private donations, I suppose they are of so very private a nature, that they can never be divulged by any one distressed family in the kingdom. The poor may say with Timon, of you and all such croakers, that you would

“ ——— let the famish'd flesh slide from the bone,

“ Ere thou relieve a beggar!”

The reason, therefore, of your mouth pity, without really sympathising for the cravings of that aperture of the poor, is very discernable. You want to irritate the lower classes against government, by persuading them that administration was the sole cause of the long and severe frost, which

has given some foundation for monopoly to grind and oppress them.

His Royal Highness could not expect therefore, an increase of settlement on his marriage, without another opposition prose elegy on the poor, from a set of men that really feel as little for their distresses, as they do for the embarrassments of the worthy Heir Apparent.

But if ever any one step could obliterate the liberal foible of His Royal Highness, in every generous bosom, it was the truly respectful and resigned expressions contained in his message to the house of commons! When all the nest of plundering equality is dispelled, and liberty and property shall again enjoy their rights, in perfect security, the following speech will be, as it is indeed now, universally extolled!

“ His Royal Highness,” Mr. Anstruther was authorized by him to say, “ was desirous to acquiesce in whatever might be the sentiments of the House, both with respect to the future regulation of his expenditure, and the appropriation of any part of the income they might think fit to grant him, for the discharge of the debt.

“ His wish, on the occasion, was intirely to consult the wisdom of parliament.

“ He was perfectly disposed to acquiesce in whatever

ever abatement of splendour they might judge to be necessary, from a view of his situation.

“ He desired nothing but what the country might cordially be induced to think he ought to have.

“ His Royal Highness, in fine, left all matters relative to the regulation of his establishment, and the payment of his debts, to the wisdom and discretion of parliament:

“ With this assurance, that whatever measures they adopt, would meet with his hearty concurrence !”

After such a declaration, I wonder how you, Sir, and some of your friends, had the unbecoming rancour still to insist, that the message should meet with a positive denial ! And that because his Royal Highness declared he would concur with the measures of parliament, you would persuade the house to make him a Royal Wanderer from the metropolis, with his splendour extinguished, and his dignity intirely sunk into that of a plain nobleman, for ten or twelve long years, as Duke of Cornwall, or Earl of Carrick !

Mr. Fox too, that old frail lady, said, that the splendour of the prince was better supported by dignity of mind, than magnificence and profusion of expence ! Would he had shewed a candid dignity of mind on the present business, by way
of

of illustrating, even in words, what he himself could never exemplify in actions! For the too bountiful Heir Apparent has often looked, as if he said to that gentleman and his friends, with Timon,

“ Methinks I could deal kingdoms to my friends,

“ And ne’er be weary !”

How liberal, on the contrary, have the warm supporters of the Monarchy behaved on this occasion? And how loyally, liberally, and properly, have his Majesty’s Ministers likewise acted to this amiable but persecuted character!

Mr. Pitt and Mr. Dundas have so peculiarly distinguished themselves in their attachment to the true interests of his Royal Highness, and those of the country, which Mr. Fox, while he owns that they are inseparable, wishes, however, in a great degree to separate; that every friend to the constitution applauds their conduct.

But, as to the demeanour of you, Sir, and others, it may be fitly compared, indeed, to that of Timon’s friends!

“ Whose thankless natures—oh, abhorred spirits!

“ Not all the whips of heaven are large enough——

“ What! to him!

“ Whose star-like nobleness gave life and influence

“ To their whole being? I am rapt, and cannot

“ Cover the monstrous bulk of their ingratitude

“ With any size of words!”

Before

Before I touch upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer's dutiful and patriotic behaviour to the Prince of Wales on his marriage, it will reflect hereditary credit on him to observe, that by such a constitutional demeanour, he is but following the footsteps of his immortal father; whose MAIDEN SPEECH, on the 29th of April 1736, was a just eulogy on his present Majesty's father, the then Prince of Wales, on his recent marriage. As it is by no means inapplicable now to his Royal Highness, as well as to his August Father, if it please not you, Sir, it surely will be highly gratifying to the public at large:

"I am really affected, said Mr. Pitt, with the prospect of the blessings to be derived to my country, from this so desirable and long desired measure, the marriage of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

"How great soever the joy of the public may be, and very great it certainly is, in receiving this benefit from his Majesty, it must be inferior to that high satisfaction which he himself enjoys in bestowing it!

"The marriage of a Prince of Wales, Sir, has at all times been a matter of the highest importance to the public welfare, to present, and to future, generations! But at no time has it been a more important, a more dear consideration, than at this day; if a character at once amiable and respectable, can embellish and even dignify the elevated rank of a Prince of Wales.

"His

“ His Royal Highness's marriage, is a measure which the nation thought could never come too soon ; because it brings with it the promise of an additional strength to the Protestant Succession in his Majesty's illustrious and royal house.

“ The spirit of liberty dictated that succession. The same spirit now rejoices in the prospect of its being perpetuated to the latest posterity.

“ It rejoices in the wise and happy choice which his Majesty has been pleased to make, of a Princess so amiably distinguished in herself, so illustrious in the merit of her family.

“ Such, Sir, is the marriage for which our most humble acknowledgements are due to his Majesty.

“ And may it afford the comfort of seeing the Royal Family, numerous as I thank God it is, still growing and rising up in a third [and now, we hope, in a fifth] generation !

“ A Family, Sir, which I most sincerely wish may be as immortal as those liberties and that constitution it came to maintain !”

This being the opinion of one of the greatest and best of men who ever lived, that the marriage of a Prince of Wales has at all times been a matter of the highest importance to the public welfare, to present, and to future generations ! I shall no longer dwell upon the unjustifiable and ungrateful conduct of you and your reforming connections to his Royal Highness
on

on such an event; but point out the liberality of Mr. Pitt, and likewise of Mr. Dundas, to that illustrious Prince whom you would exult in driving into exile! A Prince whose steady friends cannot help pointing to many of you this applicable speech:

“ ————— Who can call him friend
 “ That dips in the same dish? For to my knowing,
 “ *Timon* has been to this man as a father,
 “ And kept his credit with his bounteous purse:
 “ Supported his estate. Nay, *Timon*’s money
 “ Has paid his men their wages. He ne’er drinks,
 “ But *Timon*’s silver treads upon his lip!
 “ And yet, Oh see the monstrosity of man,
 “ When he looks out in an ungrateful shape!”

How different has Mr. Pitt behaved to his Royal Highness from what the republican herd of reformers have done! Instead of degrading and ruinous retrenchments, Mr. Pitt properly proposed to grant, as well as reserve, such a splendid and magnificent income, as became the dignity of a great, powerful, and wealthy empire to allow to the Heir Apparent of the Crown.

It was Mr. Pitt’s wish to have no base niggardly retrospect, when his Royal Highness had entered into the sacred bond of marriage, on the happy issue of which the present and the future generation were so deeply interested. He proposed to grant his Royal Highness, though confessedly not an equivalent in-

deed, to what his Royal Grandfather enjoyed, at least a greater sum. He wished to set apart a certain portion of that sum which the liberality of parliament might grant, to liquidate gradually his debts, without suffering any great diminution of his splendour, and none of his dignity. He did not wish to make retirement an involuntary constraint, to brood over the ingratitude and baseness of man! but to make it a voluntary and elegant pleasure: That a susceptible mind might reflect in the bosom of his family, with a calm and benignant freedom, and not with a compulsory moroseness, ending in a rooted misanthropy!

He knew too well how to set a just national value on the future felicity of the Prince, in which that of the People was so deeply interwoven! He aimed at enabling him to remove all clogs and embarrassments from his mind, in his new and laudable state. And he owned that it could not be effectually done, either to the satisfaction of the creditors, or to the ease and comfort of their Royal Highnesses, or with any view to certainty, except by enabling him, through the sanction of Parliament, to allot out of the income so granted, a certain part; so that the remainder would still support the splendour of the Heir Apparent to the throne of Great Britain!

The Constitution, Sir, will never permit that a Prince of Wales should be living in this country *incog.* whatever you may hope. Nor will we suffer

fer him to be driven to any cheap country in Europe for ten years, or one year, to gratify the malevolence of any republican faction on earth!

While the discerning part of the kingdom applaud the minister's conduct, the people at large are beginning to open their eyes to the true and real views of certain political characters, as to their unmanly and illiberal treatment of their future Sovereign. Certain men would wish to make the Crown, as Junius once said, not fit for a gentleman to wear. But as their arts are detected, it would be treason to the constitution, not to expose them naked to the indignation of a much insulted Prince, and a much abused Public!

Would such a retrenchment as you proposed, said Mr. Pitt, prepare him for the throne of these realms, to which, in the fulness of time, he may be one day called? Shall we, by taking no notice of his Royal Highness's incumbrances, deprive him of future dignity, credit, and happiness? Whatever had happened, continued he, they had a common interest in *looking forward!* They had an interest in maintaining the character and the dignity of the Prince of Wales, as a branch of that house!

Besides, they would likewise do well to reflect, that in the issue of this decision, were involved the credit of the hereditary monarchy, and consequently the safety of the country!

In making future provision, continued Mr. Pitt, let us not present misery and discredit, which would destroy splendour; and leave the Prince subject to daily mortifications. Let us, he added, nobly heal the misfortune; and however we may lament the past, let us, with the loyalty of patriotism, and the patriotism of loyalty, look forward with hope and confidence to the future!

As a solid and permanent establishment, according to Mr. Pitt, and every man of impartial sensibility, was a security to the peace and tranquility of the kingdom, Parliament will neither neglect that business, nor will they diminish any other splendour than that of the little, dirty malignity of your own vindictive eye; which, if not so waspishly ruddy as Robespierre's, is certainly far less ignoble than Fayette's.

The truth is, that having no talents to distinguish yourself as a reforming merchant, that had many ships in the Seine; or a wholesale dealer in this country upon your own bottom; you are content to retail in the Commons, or sell by commission, all those damaged goods that no other pedlar in politics has the effrontery to bring to market!

Having touched upon Mr. Pitt's conduct, Sir, let us slightly add to it some of the manly and clear remarks of Mr. Dundas, on the subject of the Prince's affairs,

There

There is what we call such a common sense view of the objections in that gentleman's first speech, that it must not be passed over. He, on the 1st of June, among other matters, remarked, that if Parliament should vote the larger sum, without any notice of the debts, they would vote a large sum for the ease and comfort of his Royal Highness, *but which ease and comfort he never would obtain!* For, if Parliament did not come to his aid, by appropriating a large share of the establishment to the payment of his debts; it must be evident, that from the natural bent there is in mankind to take care of their own interests, his Royal Highness's creditors would apply to the law for redress; and he would be plunged into a scene of the most dreadful and continual distress and insult! It was therefore absolutely necessary that provision should be made for paying the debts out of the sum allotted for the establishment.

Besides, it was impossible for the House to refuse to comply with the request of the Prince of Wales, to apply his income in such a manner, by legislative regulations, as would be most conducive to the dignity of his station, his personal comfort, and the security of his creditors.

Mr. Dundas, in giving this complete, though brief view of the chief point at issue, said more to the purpose, in a few minutes, than you could do
in

in as many hours. Firmness, depth, perspicuity, and candour, appear to be that gentleman's forte. Spleen, presumption, and triteness, aided by a pert and verbose confusion, is yours. You clothe common place in a tinselled novelty; while your page, Reform, walks by your side, as a convenient drab. Sometimes you turn the poor devil off, and sometimes you are all flattery and fondness. During this session, the craving jade has been sent adrift; and now you are going to take her into high keep in the country, during the recess, that she may be plump, attractive, saucy, and vociferous in town next winter, should it suit your conveniency then, Sir, to sport her figure again in St. Stephen's chapel.

Mr. Anstruther, too, was very happy and pointed on the occasion. In what related to the splendour and dignity of the Heir Apparent, respecting the kingdom, he said, the public were much interested — HIS DIGNITY AND IMPORTANCE WERE PART OF THEIR CHARACTER, AND CONSEQUENTLY A PART OF THEIR RIGHTS!

I never heard any point, Sir, more neatly and strongly given than this. You might twist, ramify, or shiver your fragile ideas about the Poor and Reform, or rather the poor reformers, for a twelve-month, without indulging us with a combination so nervous or so just.

It

It is not without real regret, however, that I have all this winter perceived a fixed plan among the reformers, to sully the reputation of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. This assassination of his fame commenced, whenever a certain separation took place, and the idea of his marriage was divulged. Slander walked abroad, at the very moment that she should have skulked into her den. A Jacobin press was let loose upon that illustrious name in every diversified form. At length pamphlets appeared; and the common shore of the diurnal prints was carefully raked for a dozen years back, to collect all the filth which had been thrown in during that period, and expose it in one heap to the public view.

In the front of this mass of malevolence, Sir, it is reported that another was thrown up by an old pioneer, who had run many *miles* throughout the rancour of his brain, to gather all the slander that has been heaped up by malice against imprudent youth. It is rank and bitter, like the gross soil on which it was gleaned; and has certainly served to manure some reformers minds, in raising up every additional noxious weed that can over-run Royalty.

And that this common-place invective, Sir, might be put in a greater state of requisition, among those who exult at any obloquy which is levelled at the
 Royal

Royal Family, the author is said to have sat down, with much stoic tranquility, and given himself a very friendly dressing, by Observations on his own Letter! Thus Mr. Blackball writes a Grub Street epistle against his Royal Highness; and, Proteus-like, changing himself to Mr. Whitewash, he issues a Stone-cutter Street or Long Lane anathema against his own work! That thus, between his two battle-door pamphlets, he may the more skilfully keep up and bandy about the shuttle cock of disaffected abuse.

But, Sir, neither your oratorical spleen, nor any such scribbling malevolence, can ever wound the illustrious Heir Apparent, for a foible, that is generally more the effects of an over-generous heart, than springing from any vicious propensity.

When we consider the time too, as well as the manner of these attacks, it is almost unaccountable to imagine how the most refined malignity can find a pretext for their unjustifiable slander!

The immediate successor to the throne, after a course of gaiety, which is common to almost all youth, invites an accomplished Princess over to become his consort, by the unanimous consent of the King, the Parliament, and the country. Both Houses, as well as the whole kingdom, stand pledged, by their Addresses, to make a suitable provision for the youthful couple. The embarrassments

rassments of his Royal Highness were universally known, previous to their nuptials; but their magnitude trebled, by the breath of slanderous rumour. It is beyond the logic of any man, therefore, but a reformer, to point out how Parliament could make a suitable provision for the royal pair, and, at the same time, deny taking any notice of the debts of his Royal Highness!

Not to comply with its aid, therefore, in liquidating these, would be, in fact, inveigling an accomplished Princess to leave her Father's Court, that she might rusticate here in some sequestered spot, as the wife of a private nobleman, instead of being the Royal Consort of the Heir Apparent of Great-Britain!

Did the senate of a great empire send for a young and lovely Princess, only to have her ears stunned by creditors, and her eyes dismayed by want and bankruptcy? Were they united only for mutual misery, by stripping them of that dignity and splendour which their rank demands, and which would be shaking the best jewels from the Crown, not to allow? If they were not to free him from all incumbrances at marriage, it would not only stain the character of the country, but be the means, perhaps, of destroying the monarchy!

It was very properly observed by Mr. Pitt, Sir, that all were interested in supporting the strength

and splendour of the throne, and consequently all the branches of the Royal Family. Much more, that of the Heir Apparent on his marriage, to continue that Royal Family! *Such a provision, he wisely added, was not a waste, but a wise application of the public money for the public advantage!*

Mr. Fox, however, in order to induce the House to exile his Royal Highness upon 60,000l. per annum, advanced a very strange position; that marriage, in the lower ranks, makes a great difference in the expence, but not in any thing like the same proportion among the higher ranks!

The contrary is well known to be the fact. The wives as well as the children of the lower, and even middle classes of life, often aid the husband; and, therefore, marriage is generally an acquisition among those classes. But it is seldom or never any other acquisition, in the higher ranks, than to continue the species; and to give an air of gaiety and fashion to the circles of polished life, at a great expence, which, while it civilizes the manners, is often very beneficial to trade.

I appeal to you, Sir, (as Mr. Fox is a bachelor) for the truth of this; in looking over, since your marriage, your additional expences in dress, equipage, attendants, card-money, &c. But your friend certainly, with more prudence, enjoys the intercourse between the sexes now at a much cheaper rate.

In

In speaking of the Royal Family, Mr. Pitt properly observed, that in our constitution the centre was Monarchy; but this Mr. Fox denied. Is not the Crown the centre about which all men rally? In France, indeed, the anarchy turns round in a circle, without any central point to fix its motion; which will be the cause of revolution following revolution, and massacre following massacre, until some such central point is settled, acknowledged, and vigorously supported. But if in England the Crown be not the standard or central fixed point round which the Lords, the Commons, and the People move, watch, and rally; what other centre can Mr. Fox or you give to the constitution; unless, indeed, by making the Reformers the centre! But as the planets would fall into confusion and chaos, were it not for their common centre the sun; so would the different constitutional bodies fall, without the sun of Majesty, which keeps all in their due orbits; and so admirably supports the harmony of our political spheres, in defiance of the threatening aspects of all the fiery and erratic comets of Reform!

If the Heir-Apparent and his Royal Consort, Sir, were not to be exonerated from all incumbrances on their marriage, I do not know a more cruel act that could be committed, not to those personages alone, but to the constitution. If once the reformers were to be permitted to send Princes and Princesses of

Wales *incog.* to the interior, they might snatch at every opportunity to send likewise Kings and Queens of England! Nay, in their rage for royal *incog.* for false titles, for false establishments, and false splendour, they might not overlook, perhaps, the two Houses of Parliament, and even the Property of the country! Therefore, one or two of the people of Property that have joined in a hue and cry for a temporary exile, do not consider that they sanction an eternal precedent!

It is no excuse to alledge, in vindication of some, that as the general election is not far off, they wish by such means to please constituents of a certain description. For, as Mr. Young justly observed, that the example of France ought to be a warning to Great-Britain, it is hoped, that as the great and immense majority of the electors are on the side of constitutional freedom; they will not suffer themselves, on any account, to be thus far duped, as to become the supporters of those, whenever the general election happens, who trim between anarchy and monarchy! For, if ever the constitution is to be destroyed, it is by these parliamentary trimmers, giving the hint, and trimming to the disaffected without doors; as there is not so great a politico-lunatic understanding between Halhed and Brothers, as between some of those two sorts of people of such opposite descriptions!

I do

I do not assert, Sir, that you know it. But I only mention it, that you may enquire into it.

You and your abettors, indeed, prove that you are not only hollow friends to his Royal Highness, by pressing to pay his debts so speedily as to extinguish his splendour—but that you act in a similar manner to those very creditors themselves, for whom you pretend so unaccountably to feel! For you would not secure their payment by votes for the motion that went to bind parliament to guarantee their liquidation, in case of a demise! Thus you would neither secure the comfort of the Prince, nor allow a proper satisfaction to the creditors! Like pettyfogging attornies, that prevent all settlement between client and defendant, because their fordid interest directs that no reconciliation should ever take place, but to the satisfaction of themselves!

I have now, Sir, not only dispassionately traced and exposed your rancorous behaviour on the affairs of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales; but have, I hope, contributed a little towards stemming the tide of reforming prejudice that has been attempted to deluge the kingdom, owing to the juvenile indiscretions of a very amiable Prince being made a vehicle for the acrimony of the disaffected. No speeches in parliament have been so tinged with illiberality towards Royalty, since the debates on the exclusion bill respecting

James

James II. when Duke of York. This is a very lamentable truth.

It affords not altogether a pleasing prospect, when the princely foible of too great a liberality, should meet with such illiberal animadversion. When there should be such a clamour raised, in an age of the most gross libertinism, against his Royal Highness, for only being mistaken in the magnitude of his purse through the extreme capaciousness of his generous heart! When he should undergo nearly as great a parliamentary censure, for a too-bountiful disposition only, as James Duke of York experienced, for his violent bigotry to the catholic faith, and his rooted enmity to the liberties of Britain! Is this either wise, candid, politic or just, in those who really love the monarchical constitution? I never was before so fully convinced, that French principles have given a slight shock to certain understandings. Although, thank Heaven, the country at large, as well as the great body of parliament, are as free from the destructive poison, as they loathe the pestilent inoculators.

There can be no excuse, Sir, for a youth being steeled against all becoming sympathy for the liberal foible of a juvenile Prince? It indicates a narrow mind, an irascible disposition, and a very suspicious heart. As for those senatorial gentlemen that are stricken in years, who have been
hostile

hostile to the emancipation of his Royal Highness from his embarrassments ; he may excuse them thus, as Timon did his Athenian senators :

“ Their blood is cak’d, ’tis cold, it seldom flows ;
 “ ’Tis lack of kindly warmth they are not kind :
 “ And nature, as it grows again tow’rd earth,
 “ Is fashion’d for the journey, dull and heavy !”

But as to you, Sir, and your associates, I doubt his Royal Highness may add too, in the language of Timon,

“ ————— I perceive
 “ Man must learn now with pity to dispense,
 “ For POLICY fits above CONSCIENCE !”

Next to your endeavours to deprive the Prince of his splendour, and of the same nature, was the plan of Mr. Fox, to dispose of the duchy of Cornwall. This luke-warm friend of prerogative declared, that he wished for the sale of the crown lands, because he did not think revenues arising from land the most proper for a sovereign ; as they gave him an extensive influence, which he should ever guard against. Why should not the sovereign have some share of the soil, as well as his subjects ? And why not have an extensive influence ? If he has but a small influence, he will be able to do but very little good, indeed, to his people. : No, Sir : We are not afraid of the influence of the crown, but of the influence

of the Reformers, who aim at new-modelling that crown. It is the great and constitutional influence of the crown, aided by the energy of the people, that has prevented this country from being destroyed by the Gallic principles of sanguinary reform. For the earth can as well exist without the genial influence of the sun, as the constitution of Great Britain without the salutary influence of the monarch. But some of the Reformers, perhaps, would not be very sorry to see our present sovereign in a similar state to that of King John, who was surnamed *Lackland*. They would wish a Magna Charta of such an indefinite extent, that every liberty might be enjoyed, without any property being secured.

I do not, however, charge your plan of reform, Sir, as extending so far. But I shall only observe, that as any individual blockhead, incendiary, or lunatic, may congregate a mixed assembly, though none but a strong force can pretend to disperse it; so in like manner every true friend to the constitution, should be very cautious, at this moment in not encouraging the mind of the mass, to congregate into any point of irritability or disrespect, towards any of the branches of the illustrious Royal Family upon the throne; as it tends to endanger, in the next age, if not in this, that indispensable bond of loyalty and attachment to a race, who have been the patriot and the vigilant guardians of the liberties of
Great

Great Britain, during the greatest part of the present century.

It was justly observed by Mr. Dundas, that the Prince of Wales is the peculiar care of the people. As Heir Apparent he is their property and their care. It is hoped, therefore, that no gentleman within or without the walls of parliament, will persist in diminishing the value of that property, or in dimming its lustre. For a jeweller may as well flaw a diamond, to increase its radiance and intrinsic worth, as certain persons pretend, by the breath of calumnious invective, to give an additional brilliancy to his Royal Highness's character.

However dearly purchased to himself may be his knowledge of mankind, there cannot, perhaps, a greater blessing befall him, for his future tranquility, and the kingdom's happiness, than to have a perfect comprehension of the views and the arts of those political tricksters, that formerly basked in the sunshine of his friendship; and who now so basely defame him, by faint praise, by hollow sympathy, or by open slander! Well may he exclaim, with Timon,

“ ————— But myself,

“ Who had the world as my confectionary!

“ The mouths, the tongues, the eyes, the hearts of men

“ At duty, more than I could frame employments;

“ That numberless upon me stuck, as leaves

“ Do on the oak; have with one winter's brush

H

“ Fall'n

" Fall'n from their boughs, and left me open, bare
 " For ev'ry storm that blows. *I to bear this,*
 " *That never knew but better, is some burden !*"

It is, indeed, a burden ! But as his Royal Highness, by his message, has shewn a great mind, as well as by his actions, a liberal disposition ; he has mental strength sufficient to bear up against all unjust obloquy, all ungrateful remark ! And spurn at that with contempt, which he cannot eye but with indignation.

What treatment he may receive from some persons in another House, may not be altogether calculated. But it is to be hoped that there, his lukewarm supporters will be but very few ; and his real friends many and zealous. It is hoped, too, that a certain duke, if Junius be somewhat forgotten, will not appear with so lowering and threatening an aspect as he did on a former day ; when he grumbled about ministerial incapacity, and of giving his assent or dissent, in exonerating his Royal Highness, without considering whether he gave offence to that House, to the nation, or *elsewhere !* Ill-natured, censorious people might apply, perhaps, the following passage in Timon to that speech of his Grace. I leave it to you, Sir, to judge whether it be the least applicable :

" The devil knew not what he did, when he made man *politic*.
 " He cross'd himself by't. And I cannot think but in the end
 " the

“ the villanies of man will set him clear. How fairly this lord
 “ strives to appear foul? Takes virtuous copies to be wicked :
 “ like those that under hot, ardent zeal, would set whole realms
 “ on fire. Of such a nature is his *politic love* !”

But, to conclude. Nothing could be more necessary than a Call of the House, on the question of his Royal Highness's affairs; as, however it may be a question of party among you and your friends; yet, with the great body of parliament, and with the loyal people at large, it is a question of *constitution* ! It almost amounts to this — “ Whether or not the monarchy is to be continued in that necessary and indispensable splendour,” as Mr. Fox said, “ in which all delight !” It is almost as momentous as deciding upon French principles. For should the splendour of royalty be agreed on to be diminished, it might come to a question in future, whether or not it ought to be entirely extinguished ! Therefore, when Mr. Fox wished to decide on the debts, by every member giving his vote, it was not altogether improper; were it not that the mode was borrowed from a very horrid precedent of the Convention, in regard to the life of Louis !

On some future day, perhaps, I may touch again upon the parliamentary occurrences that may yet arise this session, upon the subject of his Royal

Highness's affairs. In the mean time, I have no doubt but that Parliament will solemnly, wisely, and loyally weigh the business; so as not to permit it to be a question between the *creditors* and the *constitution* ! For although their credits originated in aiding the splendour of royalty, the policy of the country must not suffer their demands only to be satisfied by its hazardous and inglorious diminution !

Trusting that this letter shall work some reformation even upon you, Sir, although you are a reformer; for the present I take my leave, with recommending to your serious consideration, and to that of the Commons House of Parliament, on the business of to-morrow, what Mr. Pitt so pointedly, elegantly, and justly recommended on Friday last: His words were:

“ The question was, Whether upon a feeling and
 “ candid consideration, the House should make
 “ that provision for his Royal Highness and his
 “ Illustrious Consort, that would be necessary for
 “ their rank, station, and dignity? Whether they
 “ should, under any pretence of a specious liber-
 “ rality, deprive their Royal Highnesses of the
 “ comforts and enjoyments of life; or confer upon
 “ them

“ them freely, and with the generosity becoming
 “ the character of the British nation, an ample,
 “ easy, and dignified establishment.

“ This, he believed, was the only wise and pro-
 “ vident means which could be adopted towards
 “ the accomplishment of so beneficial and politic
 “ an object. Gentlemen would divest themselves,
 “ he hoped, of all considerations which, on too
 “ narrow a scale, would but lead to an unjust,
 “ however apparently wise, conclusion.

“ They would keep before their eyes that they
 “ were providing for the Heir Apparent of the
 “ Crown; for an essential and vital part of the
 “ constitution: And whatever disorders and evils
 “ were suggested by gentlemen, to arise from any
 “ abuses, which the branches of royal houses had
 “ created, they would the more vigorously oppose
 “ those abuses, by diverting them from the persons
 “ to whom they might have unfortunately attached
 “ themselves: and, by giving a new direction, as
 well

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